

Message Text

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NASA/EK/RLSCHWEICKART

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NASA BATHMETRY EXPERIMENT

1. NASA REQUESTS PERMISSION FROM BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC SEA-SURFACE AND SUB-SURFACE MEASUREMENTS WITHIN GOB TERRITORIAL WATERS DURING PERIOD AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 7, 1975. PROJECT IS JOINT NASA/COSTEAU SOCIETY EXPERIMENT INVOLVING COLLECTION OF BATHYMETRY DATA USING TWO SHIPS AND CORRELATING THIS DATA WITH THAT FROM HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH AIRCRAFT AND LANDSAT SATELLITE MEASUREMENTS.

2. EXPERIMENT TEST SITE (WHICH IS MOSTLY WITHIN BAHAMIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS) PROVIDES UNIQUE COMBINATION OF EXTREMELY CLEAR, SHALLOW WATER OF VARYING DEPTH AND RELATIVELY UNIFORM SEA FLOOR FEATURES.

3. MEASUREMENTS WILL BE TAKEN OF WATER TRANSPARENCY, BOTTOM
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REFLECTIVITY AND WATER DEPTH AT WAVELENGTHS CORRESPONDING

TO SATELLITE MULTI-SPECTRAL SCANNER BANDS. INSTRUMENTATION WILL INCLUDE TRANSMISSOMETERS, SUBMARINE PHOTOMETERS, LORAN-C AND TRANSIT POSITION LOCATION EQUIPMENT AND EQUIPMENT FOR WEATHER SATELLITE DATA RECEPTION.

4. PROJECT INCLUDES USE OF COSTEAU SHIP CALYPSO, NASA CONTRACTED SHIP FROM JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY APPLIED PHYSICS

LABORATORY (THE BEAYANDON), NASA HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH AIRCRAFT, AND USE OF NASA AND OTHER US EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL.

5. NASA WELCOMES INTEREST OF GOB AND IF DESIRED WILL TRY TO ARRANGE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS ON ONE OF THE TWO SHIPS FOR ONE GOB OFFICIAL AND ONE OFFICIAL FROM US EMBASSY.

6. SHIPS WILL STAGE FROM NASSAU PORT AND INVOLVE TWO PERIODS OF MEASUREMENTS AUGUST 27-29 AND SEPTEMBER 5-7 IN COORDINATION WITH LANDSAT SATELLITE PASSES.

7. ONCE GOB APPROVAL IN PRINCIPAL OBTAINED, WE WILL FOLLOW WITH SPECIFIC DETAILS AND REQUESTS CONCERNING
A. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FOR US EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED ON CALYPSO AT NASSAU
B. CLEARANCE FOR NASA RESEARCH AIRCRAFT
C. CLEARANCE FOR US NATIONALS TO TRANSIT BAHAMAS TO BOARD SHIP TO WITNESS OR ASSIST IN INSTALLING AND OPERATING EQUIPMENT.

8. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE POST FACILITATING SHIP CLEARANCES AS MAY BE REQUESTED BY THE SHIP CAPTAINS.

9. FYI IN APPROACHING GOB, POST SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT RPT NOT TO WORD REQUEST IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IMPLY REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO OPERATE LANDSAT SATELLITES OVER BAHAMAS. USG MAINTAINS CLEARANCE FOR SATELLITE OPERATIONS NOT RPT NOT REQUIRED AS THIS IS A PEACEFUL APPLICATION OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY UNDER EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND TREATIES. IF GOB INQUIRIES ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF DATA, EMBASSY MAY ASSURE ALL DATA WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GOB IF THEY WISH.
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END FYI. SISCO

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